



Watertown Public Schools

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Ms. Donna K. Martin
Principal

Mr. Jason Del Porto
Assistant Principal

January 3, 2019

Dear Watertown Middle School Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break and were able to carve out some time for rest and fun family times. However, it is nice to be back to the routine of school, and the students seem to have settled back into their classes and activities. 😊

Some important upcoming dates/events:

Calendar

January 4	Progress reports distributed
January 4	Minuteman HS presentation for 8 th grade
January 7	School Committee meeting Town Hall 7pm
January 7	Auditions for the Variety Show
January 8	Second round of auditions for the Variety Show
January 8-9	ACCESS testing for EL students
January 9	PTO meeting – 7pm in the library
January 9 & 11	SOS program in Grade 7 Health during periods 3 and 4 - letters going home to parents
January 10	SEPAC meeting (no childcare) – Phillips Bldg 9-11 am
January 16	WHS Guidance Night 6:30-8:30 pm
	https://whs.watertown.k12.ma.us/news/what_s_new/guidance_night
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly 1:30 pm

January 17 Reconciliation & Restorative Justice Forum 6:30-8:00pm

January 21 Martin Luther King Day – No School

January 21 Watertown MLK Unity Breakfast

January 23 Grade 8 visit to WHS 12-2:30 pm

January 24 Variety Show 7:00 pm

January 24 Last Day of Second Quarter – Grades Close

January 25 First Day of Third Quarter

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec. 31 NO SCHOOL	Jan. 1 NO SCHOOL	Jan. 2 A day	Jan. 3 B day	Jan. 4 A day
Jan. 7 B day	Jan. 8 A day	Jan. 9 B day	Jan. 10 A day	Jan. 11 B day
Jan. 14 A day	Jan. 15 B day	Jan. 16 A day	Jan. 17 B day	Jan. 18 A day
Jan. 21 MLK Day NO SCHOOL	Jan. 22 B day	Jan. 23 A day	Jan. 24 B day	Jan. 25 A day
Jan. 28 B day	Jan. 29 A day	Jan. 30 B day	Jan. 31 A day	Feb. 1 B day

MINUTEMAN HS VISIT: Representatives from Minuteman Vocational High School will be here on Friday morning January 4th, 2019, to meet with any interested 8th graders. They will be describing their programs and answering any questions students may have. A reminder that there is an **application deadline of April 1, 2019**, for any student applying to Minuteman.

YEARBOOK: The 2018-2019 WMS yearbooks are now on sale for \$25! Please use the following information to place your orders:

ybpay.lifetouch.com Yearbook ID Code: 7822619

The deadline to purchase is May 1st.

MORNING DROP OFF: As stated at the beginning of the year and in the handbook:

*If you are driving your child to school, **Please consider the safety of our children who are walking nearby. DROP STUDENTS OFF ON BEMIS ST. ONLY. Please do not block traffic, and pull your car clear of others before pulling away.** To avoid traffic tie-ups, consider dropping your child off a block away and letting him/her walk the rest of the way.*

Please DO NOT drop off students before 8:30 at the Waverly Street door. Several buses drop off students there, and it is unsafe to have cars in between the buses and vans. Please drop off your students at the Bemis Street entrance before 8:30am. Our number one priority is keeping the students safe, and so we ask you to please follow the drop off procedures so no accidents occur.

FROM THE NURSE: Due to district wide policy change, cough drops and throat lozenges are no longer supplied by the health office. Students are more than welcome to keep a bag in their locker or backpack if needed.

COATS FOR KIDS: *ONE FINAL PUSH!!!***** Our annual Coats for Kids Drive has started! From 10/1/18 through 1/4/19, we will be collecting gently used coats for cleaning and distribution to needy families in the greater Boston area through Anton's Cleaners. We ask that you look in your closet and donate gently used winter coats of all sizes, from infant snowsuits to XXL adult coats, but please remember this is a coats-only drive. Please do not donate hats, mittens, scarves and other winter apparel. Our goal is to collect at least one coat for every student here at the school!

SOME ADDITIONAL UPDATES:

Due to a Jr. Varsity basketball game being held in the Watertown Middle School Gym, our Middle School Fun & Games night will be held from 8:30-10:00 this evening.

Auditions for the Variety Show on January 24th will be held this upcoming Monday/Tuesday. We would love for more students to sign up! Please encourage your talented and funny children to get involved!

As part of this year's new goal of having MLK assemblies at all of our five schools, we will also be hosting a community forum for parents, families and others on Reconciliation & Restorative Justice: Healing, Teaching, & Learning. The forum, held on Thursday, January 17th from 6:30-8 pm at the WMS auditorium, features guest speaker Tina Chery of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Boston. Please see the attached flyer: [Invite to Reconciliation Forum.docx](#)

Best,

Donna Martin, Principal